

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, M.S. 19-31
Sacramento, CA 95814



April 8, 1981

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 81-36

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: Adoption Conference on Exchanges

REFERENCE:

This letter is to report on the Adoption Conference on Exchanges held February 17 and 18 in San Diego. The meeting was sponsored by Adoption Resource Center-Region 9, and brought together adoption agency and state department personnel from Arizona, Nevada and California, personnel from ARC 9, and representatives of adoptive parents groups. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the exchange of information among adoption agencies in Region 9 regarding potential and approved adoptive families and waiting children.

The meeting focused on two main concerns:

- A. The creation of a minority component within each existing adoption exchange that would facilitate the movement of minority children into adoptive homes.

Minority representatives agreed to develop a communication network with adoption staff in his/her exchange area who have minority caseloads and keep records of the following information:

1. Approved adoptive families and families under study
2. Children who are freed for adoption and those who are in the process of being freed
3. Local recruitment efforts
4. Innovative methods used by local agencies to recruit minority families
5. Placements resulting from referrals to other exchanges

This information will be shared at exchange meetings and will be sent on a flow basis to the Minority Exchange Coordinator in Sacramento who will compile it into one report and distribute it to all Region 9 exchanges.

The creation of the Minority Component will add the following benefits to the exchanges:

- a. Region-wide availability of placement resources
- b. Creation of a region-wide pool of minority families

- c. Addition of new information regarding potential adoptive families and children who will need placements.
- d. Capability for advanced planning for placements.

Minority Component Representatives are:

Arizona:

Juan Coss
Arizona Department of Economic Security

California:

1. Bay Area Supervisors for Adoption (BASA)

Lawrence Gallegos
Santa Clara County Department of
Public Social Services

2. Mid-Coast Exchange

Diane Bismikah
Children's Home Society-Monterey

3. REACH

Margie Kertzman
Fresno County Department of Social Services

4. So. California Cooperative Placement Committee

Delores Rodriguez
Los Angeles County Department of Adoptions

5. Valley Exchange

Martha Briggs
Sacramento County Department of Social Welfare

6. State Department of Social Services-Sacramento

Joyce Sequar

Nevada:

Wanda Scott
Nevada State Welfare Department

- B. The second main concern was the need to strengthen existing local adoption agency exchange groups.

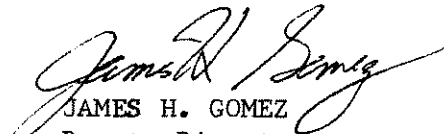
Each exchange coordinator agreed to work to improve communication with his/her adoption staff and to use exchange meetings as productively as possible.

The State Department of Social Services supports the minority component plan and efforts to strengthen existing local exchanges. We encourage welfare departments and private adoption agency administration to review their adoption agencies' exchange participation and to ensure that:

1. exchange coordinators and minority representatives work cooperatively to expedite the placement of waiting children in an appropriate home
2. communication exists within the agency between all adoption staff and the exchange coordinator, with input from and reports back to all staff on the activities of the exchange
3. exchange meetings are used as productively as possible, that is, all coordinators should be prepared to present information received from adoption staff on available families and waiting children and all exchange members should participate
4. exchange coordinators report back to the exchange on the progress of all possible referrals made as a result of the exchange meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Joyce Sequar at (916) 445-7964.

Sincerely,



JAMES H. GOMEZ
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA